

BUILD SKILLS

from A History of the English Church and People • *from The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*

LITERARY ANALYSIS

Historical writing tells the story of past events using evidence that the writer has evaluated for reliability. Examining the evidence is one way that history writers take a step back from the shared beliefs of those around them. You can sense this historical “step back” in a sentence from Bede’s *History*: “Britain, formerly known as Albion, is an island in the ocean....” The moment Bede wrote that sentence, he left behind his tiny corner of England for a wider world that knew little about Britain.

READING STRATEGY

Bede sometimes writes in long sentences. **Break down long sentences** into main and related parts. This will help you interpret them. First, find the part of the sentence that states the main action or actions. Then, find details about these actions that answer *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, or *why*. Use the chart below to break down long sentences. Follow the example given to you.

